

CITY WATER SUPPLY MENACED

Chief Davis Declares Relief Must Come in Few Months

PLANTS NEAR WRECK

Torresdale and Lardner's Point Stations Will Last Only Three Years

Accidents that are almost certain to arise within a few months will deprive 60 per cent of the houses in this city of their water supply, unless immediate relief is afforded the Water Bureau.

The Torresdale filtration plant and the Lardner's Point pumping station, once regarded as the best in the world, will be entirely wrecked within three years at the most because of lack of suitable care and repairs.

Construction of a parallel system of piping, covering all the ground already piped, and virtually all the existing water service, must be immediately installed, or an aqueduct system established from nearby mountain springs, if a water famine is to be avoided.

These were the high points of a survey of the Philadelphia water situation as presented last night to members of the North Philadelphia Realty Board by Carlton E. Davis, Chief of the Bureau of Water, in an address asking for the support of the real estate men in a program of wide sweeping reforms in the Water Bureau. Support was unanimously pledged. The meeting was held at the clubhouse, 3713 North Broad street.

"Our system is inefficient and unsafe," Chief Davis said. "We have put all our eggs in one basket and have forgotten to take proper care of the container. Sixty per cent of our entire supply comes from the Delaware River through the Torresdale station, and comes through equipment that has not had an adequate overhauling for twelve years."

"Even if the Torresdale plant should last for three more years, which seems doubtful under present conditions, all the water that comes from there has to be pumped through one conduit that has eight connections, any one of which is likely to break at any time. Another conduit carries the water to a series of three pipes joined so closely together that any accident to one of them would affect the other two."

Installation of water meters would relieve part of the strain on the water supply, it was said by Chief Davis, but would not prevent the danger of a cutting off of supply.

Ordinances to afford temporary relief are to be pressed by Chief Davis during the winter session of Council, he said.

AUTO TAGS GOOD UNTIL JAN. 15

Rush for Licenses Overwhelms Highway Department

Harrisburg, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—Registration of motor vehicles for 1919 will be necessary to permit owners to operate their vehicles with 1918 licenses until January 15, State Highway Commissioner stated today. He has wired counties to this effect and to post notices to the State. So far 106,000 license tags have been issued.

Register of license tags has collected \$508,000 more than had been collected on the last day of 1918. Fees already received amounting to \$1,502,000. The increase in the number of licenses issued this year amounts to 26,000 more than were issued during 1918. Total collections amount to \$4,048,174.50. Licenses issued for motor vehicles amounted to 252,850 and for solid-wheeled vehicles 21,182.

WEST POINT'S URGENT NEED

Medical Officer Calls Hospital Facilities "Painfully Inadequate"

Washington, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—Medical facilities at West Point are described as "painfully inadequate" by Colonel W. H. Haskins, medical corps, at a hearing today by the House Military Affairs Committee on the 1920 Military Academy appropriation bill. Colonel Haskins recommended that \$450,000 be appropriated for a new hospital.

SIMS TO HEAD NAVAL COLLEGE

Admiral to Assume Post at His Own Request on Return Home

Washington, Dec. 31.—Admiral Sims, commander of the American naval forces in European waters, has been assigned to his own request the presidency of the Naval War College at Newport, R. I. He will assume that post when his duties overseas end—probably early next summer.

TO DIVIDE AUSTRIAN MARINE

Italy to Get Three-Fourths and France One-Fourth

Paris, Dec. 31.—An arrangement has been completed whereby Italy obtains approximately 75 per cent and France 25 per cent of the Austrian mercantile marine, consisting mostly of cargo boats. The ships, which will fly the International Merchant flag, will be manned by Italian and French crews. They will be used to carry food and supplies.

3 ITALIAN MINISTERS RESIGN, PARIS HEARS

Paris, Dec. 31.—(By A. P.)—The resignation of three Italian ministers may delay the opening of the preliminary Peace Conference until January 15, according to the Echo de Paris. In addition to Bissolati, Minister of Military Aid and War Pensions; Signor Baronnini, Minister of Education; and Signor Bari, Minister of Public

BRITISH PLAN FOR WORLD LEAGUE WOULD OMIT SUPER-STATE ASPECT

Continued from Page One action to it will profoundly influence France and Italy, where its international significance will not be missed. President Wilson is already an issue in Italy, where the cabinet members are resigning because of alleged half-hearted support of him by the Government.

The President's visit to Rome is likely to sharpen the issue there. In the way of a complete Wilson victory at the conference stand Italy and France, where the Governments at least are less sympathetic, while in England there is a certain indefiniteness in the position of Lloyd George, who supports the league and a just peace in principle, but has engagements with his allies which, from the American viewpoint, are inconsistent with a just peace. His exact commitments are unknown.

Lloyd George often has been inconsistent in his own professions, from a curious inability to see all their logical implications. He professed belief in the necessity of a just peace and in the next breath encouraged the electioneering cry for punishing Germany, exacting from her the utmost farthing. Until the Peace Conference is over it will not be known to what extent he has really committed himself to the utmost-farthing program or to the ambition of the Allies which he may not regard as inconsistent with a just peace, but which Wilson may oppose.

PRESIDENT ENDS HIS VISIT TO BRITAIN; GOES BACK TO PARIS

Continued from Page One mained on the bridge of the Brighton until the steamer left her pier. They smiled and waved farewell to those on shore, while the band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

On their arrival on the platform of the station, when the train reached here from London, a guard of honor, consisting of a company of royal Welch Fusiliers, from the Dover patrol, was lined up to greet the party. The President was received by Commander Boyd, secretary to Vice Admiral Sir Roger Keyes. Admiral Keyes being indisposed and unable to attend in person.

Others in the receiving party were Rear Admiral Cecil P. Dampier, Major General J. Colin Mackenzie and the Marquis of Camden. They accompanied the presidential party to the pier, where President Wilson shook hands all around and expressed his appreciation for the arrangements made for his reception.

Destroyers Guard Ship As the Brighton passed out of the harbor of Dover her naval escort took positions on either side, accompanying the President and his party. French destroyers took over the task.

As the President was leaving England he telegraphed King George a message, expressing deep appreciation of his entertainment in this country and wishing the English people a happy new year.

The President returns to France, members of the party indicate, feeling that great progress has been made toward the realization of his peace ideals. On the trip to Dover Premier Clemenceau's speech was discussed among the Americans. No expression, however, was forthcoming to give any clue as to President Wilson's feeling regarding it.

President Wilson arrived in London at 7:15 last night and immediately went to Buckingham Palace. He was cheered by large numbers of persons who were proceeding homeward from business before the President's demonstration, as the time of the arrival of the presidential special train was not known to the public.

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Italy is creating accomplished facts on the Adriatic; and a powerful party is forming in France, which, not content with the recovery of Alsace and Lorraine and the happy healing of that historic sore, threatens to create a fresh sore by annexation beyond its borders. In Belgium, claims are being influentially asserted, not only to Luxembourg, but to sundry portions of Dutch territory on her northern and eastern border. Poland is threatening and perhaps actually has occupied Dutch territory on her northern and eastern border. Poland is threatening and perhaps actually has occupied Dutch territory on her northern and eastern border.

"Now this is obviously not exactly conformable to either the spirit or the letter of President Wilson's terms, but is an attempt to forestall the decisions of the conference when it meets and must tend gravely to hamper its work."

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BERGER TESTIFIES IN OWN DEFENSE

Told His Editors to Use "Berlin, French and English Lies About War"

By the Associated Press

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Victor L. Berger, Congressman-elect from Milwaukee, took the witness stand in his own defense at the opening of today's session of the trial of himself and four other Socialist leaders on charges of conspiracy to violate the anti-trust law. All the other defendants have preceded him.

Berger told the story of socialism in America and of his own antiwar activities as a leader of the Socialist party. He said his conversion to socialism took place in 1881. He traced the development of the Socialist movement in the United States to the time of the trial of himself and four other Socialist leaders on charges of conspiracy to violate the anti-trust law. All the other defendants have preceded him.

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WOUNDED SOLDIERS FOR BEER

Men Passing Through City Also Strong for Red Cross

Y. M. C. A. Takes Armory AS CLUB FOR SOLDIERS

High praise for the Red Cross and strong commendation of the Y. M. C. A. were voiced by a number of wounded soldiers who passed through Philadelphia today en route to an army hospital at Camp Devens, near Boston.

Nothing is too good to say for the Red Cross, testified Private Caleb Cope, of Woodside near Jenkintown; "but as for the Y. M. C. A., well, the general opinion of the boys is expressed in that sign," and he pointed to where, in big letters, the following was chalked on the side of the hospital car: "The Red Cross—God bless that organization."

"The Y. M. C. A.—No good." This viewpoint of the returning soldiers is of special interest just now, when the Y. M. C. A. has demanded a congressional probe of its war activities.

The Red Cross workers dug down to the boys no matter how deep the snow. Private Cope and his companions were landed in Newport News, Va., where they were taken to the Walter Reed Hospital at Washington and others to Lakewood, Cape May and other resorts. They were met by the Red Cross canteen workers and nurses and the boys were changing engines in Broad Street station.

December 28 IRISH "FOURTH" Envoy Says It Ranks With American Independence Day

December 28, 1918, is proclaimed as Ireland's independence day in a statement issued here today by Patrick McCartan, envoy of the provisional government of Ireland.

Mr. McCartan declares that the day when the results of the election in the British Isles became known "will forever rank in the history of Ireland as July 4, 1776, ranks in the history of America; as July 14, 1789, ranks in the history of France, and as the day of the birth of liberty ranks in the history of every free people."

Regarding the result of the election, he said: "Ireland was occupied by an English army; the Irish republican leaders were incarcerated in English jails; our meetings were proclaimed and our press effectively silenced; the first director whom we appointed to conduct the republican election campaign was arrested and his headquarters raided; the same fate overtook in turn each one who succeeded him; and, in brief, every device which imperial ingenuity could conceive was used to prevent the free expression of the electoral will. Nevertheless, when the result was revealed on December 28, it was unequivocally demonstrated that the people of Ireland had determined that Britain shall not continue to govern Ireland, and that the repudiation of Ireland by any code of laws or by any land, by more than two-thirds majority, had finally severed such connection as Ireland with England as force and machinery had maintained for seven centuries."

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